



***Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024***

***Student Pastor – Dave Creamer  
Assisted by - Colton Custer***

***Trinity United Church of Christ  
600 Main Street  
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

## **Prelude**

**The First Noel – Mary McDonald  
What Child Is This? – Mary McDonald**

## **Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

Stop! Feel the excitement, the expectation!

**The whole creation is standing on tip toe, waiting to see what God is Doing.**

Sing! Rejoice! Do not fear! God is coming among us.

**We are renewed in God's Love, for God changes shame to praise. God gathers the outcast under a gentle shade tree.**

God gathers you and me and brings us to our true, spiritual home.

**Sing, Daughters of Zion. Rejoice, Sons of the Most High God, for he is doing a marvelous thing.**

### **\*Hymn No. 82**

**O Come, Let Us Adore Him**

### **Call to Confession**

Like children waiting for Christmas morning, we are anxious for our gift. Filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love the promise of our salvation, the coming of our savior, fills us with the spirit of God. Let us pray together.

### **Confession**

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, send a surge of energy into our weary selves so we may leap up with eyes open wide, awaiting your wonders. Shake us from our complacent comforts. Sound a trumpet in our slumber that we may be awakened to the power and promise of your presence among us. Help us glimpse what you are doing and what you would have us do, even as we worship you, Heavenly Father, Ruler of all. Amen**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

As we seek the gift of salvation, the endless Grace given to us by the birth, life, and sacrifice, of Jesus Christ, God hears us. He sees our need. He forgives us. Amen.

### **The Lighting of the advent Wreath!**

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The candles of hope, peace, and Joy have already been lit.

Today we light the candle of Love. We are reminded of God's love for each one of us and for the whole world. God's Love is made real to us in the gift of Jesus who came to Earth that we may more fully know God and love God. In the busy times of this special season, let us pause to remember the most precious gift of all, the gift of Love. Remember those you love and those who love you. As we light the Candle of Love Remember to be aware of God's presence and experience Gods Love.

Join with me in prayer.

**Loving and Faithful God, we give you thanks for your loving presence in our lives. Help us to return the love you have given us by reaching out in love to others. Amen.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hades.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Presentation of the Offering – Singing of the Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

**Offertory Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we share our gifts with you. We bring to others some of what we have. Please use this offering to do your will. Heavenly father we pray for this world, please give it hope, peace, joy, and your love. Watch over our military, near and abroad. Let those that serve know they are in our hearts, protect them with your care. We lift up to you those on our prayer list. Heal them in heart, mind, body, and soul. Help us to help those in need. Guide us in knowledge and care to help bring comfort and peace to those we pray for. Strengthen our resolve to do your will. We pray that your holy presence is with those that don't think they need your presence. We pray for our lands and homes and your church. Strengthen them with your spirit, bless them to be fruitful,

empower us to be your productive people. As Christmas comes, and we celebrate the birth of your Son, our savior Jesus Christ, help us to remember his teachings and to always be grateful for his gift of grace to us. The Prayer he taught to us we offer to you now.

**Our Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]**

**Trinity Bells**

**Carol of the Bells  
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow  
Clarinet Accompaniment – Cohen Clark**

**Scripture:**

**Micah 5: 2-4**

**2** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

**3** Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in travail has brought forth;  
then the rest of his brethren shall return  
to the people of Israel.

**4** And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

**Epistle:**

**Hebrews 10: 5-10**

**5** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired,  
but a body hast thou prepared for me;

**6** in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure.

**7** Then I said, ‘Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,’  
as it is written of me in the roll of the book.”

**8** When he said above, “Thou hast neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

**9** then he added, “Lo, I have come to do thy will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

**10** And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Gospel:**

**Luke 1: 39-55**

**39** In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah,

**40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

**41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

**42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

**43** And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**44** For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.

**45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

**46** And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

**47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**48** for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

**49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**50** And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

**51** He has shown strength with his arm,

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

**52** he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

**53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

**54** He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
**55** as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”

**Hymn No. 124**

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Sermon**  
**“Listen Through the Noise ”**  
**Dave Creamer**

**Trinity Bells**

**Good King Wenceslas**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**Surely the Presence of the Lord**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,  
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings,  
I see glory on each face,  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

**Going Forth**

**Postlude**

**Carillon On “Come, All Ye Shepherds”**  
**Gordon Young**

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**Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for the Armed Forces.

**Shut Ins:**

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

**Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Tammy Coughenour, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka, Paul Gallick, Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy, Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Rick Work, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

**Prayer List Update**

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.



**Prayer Calls:**

If you are not receiving our one call prayer calls, please contact the office. The number that calls is an “877” number. This may appear to be spam. If your phone is blocking spam calls, this may be one reason why. If you prefer to receive the calls on your cell vs. landline we would like to know that as well.

**The Saints In Action**

TODAY – Fourth Sunday of Advent & Trinity Bells

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday – 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Next Sunday – 1st Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

**Giving From 12/15/24**

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$1713.00	\$3155.58	-\$1442.58
<b>Ben</b>	\$155.00	\$182.69	-\$27.69
<b>Maint</b>	\$370.00	\$163.46	\$206.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$120.00		\$120.00
<b>Total</b>	\$2358.00	\$3501.73	-\$1143.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$110, Adopt-A-Family \$100.

**Worship Attendance: 73**

**Sunday School: 0**

## **Where You May Find. . .**

**The Nursery:** *is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.*

## **At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .**

Large Print Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

*These Days* – Devotional

## **Assisting in Worship**

**Sound:** Pam Bush & Jim Darr

**Ushers:** Jim & Jean Ann Darr

**Acolytes:** Colton Custer

**Organ:** Amy Clark

**Flowers on the altar** *to the Glory of Christ our redeemer, and to all the Saints who have gone before us, by John and Sue Coughenour.*

**Special Bulletin** in memory of her grandparents, Dan & Anna Mae Weighley, and uncle, Jamie Weighley, by Craig, Amanda, Knox and Tatum Stiffler.

## ***The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by***

*Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr*

*Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger*

*Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick*

*Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas*

*Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel*

## **Consistory Elders:**

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650*

*Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166*

*Jim Darr, 814-483-0957*

### **Consistory Deacons:**

*Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco*

### **Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mailing Address: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: [berlinucc@yahoo.com](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://www.berlinucc.org)

### **Sunday School**

Who is God?

A true, intimate relationship with God is not based on our own ideas about what God is like. If we really desire to know God, we must approach Him based on the knowledge of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word. Join Dr. Steven J. Lawson in this in-depth study as he articulates a biblical understanding of fifteen divine attributes and explores how a right understanding of God can affect every aspect of our lives. This 16-week adult Sunday School series will begin on December 22nd and be led by Sue Coughenour.

**Thank You** to all the youth that participated in the Christmas Program last Sunday and Lucy Wright for playing the piano during announcements prior to the Service.

**Thank You** for the recent donation for Living Waters Camp & Conference Center to support the Youth Rally. It is through wonderful partners like yourselves that we are able to continue outdoor ministry at an affordable price. With your help we are able to touch the lives of children and youth and bring them to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. In Appreciation, Rev Jay Shaffer

### **Hurricane Donations**

The Berlin Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are seeking nonperishable food donations for holiday dinners and very gently used or brand-new toys for Christmas gifts for Hurricane Helene victims. For just a minute, put yourself in

their shoes, what would make the holidays a little brighter for you? Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 8th. Donations can be placed in the donation box at the Vine Street entrance. Thank you.

### **Birthright Christmas Tree**

Once again, we will be sponsoring the Birthright Christmas Tree. It will be located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to look at it and see if there is some way you can help those in need.

**The Souper Bowl Competition** is underway. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot as we lost it last year. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Super Bowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope "Souper Bowl" and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

**Meals on Wheels** of Somerset County needs volunteers to deliver meals in Berlin and the surrounding area on Mondays. If you would be interested and want more information, contact Meals on Wheels at 814-443-2787 or Rose Shaffer, Berlin driver coordinator, at 814-267-5310.

### **Hugs & Kisses**

**Sunday, January 12th** - 6:00 p.m. Game Night. Bring your favorite family board games and a snack/drink to share. This is for ALL ages so come join in on the fun!

**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.